

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed June 7, 2004. Claims 8, and 19-26 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended. New claims 27 and 28 have been added. Thus, claims 1-7, 9-18, and 27-28 remain pending in the case. Reconsideration of the present case is earnestly requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowed Subject Matter

The Office Action objected to claim 8, but indicated that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowed matter, and has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 8 and cancelled claim 8, accordingly. Applicant has also amended independent claim 17 in substantially the same manner. Applicant thus respectfully submits that claims 1 and 17, and those claims respectively dependent thereon, are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited art, and are thus allowable. Applicant has also added new independent claim 27, which includes substantially the same features and limitations as claims 1 and 17, and so is similarly allowable, as is its dependent claim 28.

Removal of the §102 and §103 rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant also asserts that numerous ones of the dependent claims recited further distinctions over the cited art. However, since the independent claims have been shown to be patentably distinct, a further discussion of the dependent claims is not necessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

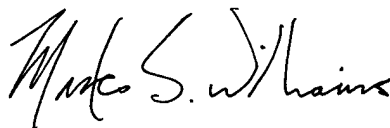
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-62801/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Check in the amount of \$ for fees ().
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



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AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

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